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**Remarks:**

Claims 1 through 31 are being CANCELLED herein. Claims 32 through 35 are being added to clarify the language, correct previous informalities, and to simplify the prosecution of the application.

The examiner has objected to claims 1 and 3-30 for certain informalities. These claims are being cancelled herein and new claims added to overcome this objection.

The examiner also has rejected claims 2, 30, and 31 under 35 U. S. C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jansen (US 6,129,083) in view of Burger (US 4,619,271). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant submits that the Jansen reference teaches an article of apparel which has a shape-retaining construction contoured to engage a sufficient portion of the human body to gain from the pressure on those portions combined with the rigidity of the construction sufficient mechanical support to avoid dislodgement of the apparel. The reference further teaches that body flexure or other movement often causes a misalignment of the apparel. Jansen thus discloses an extension attached to the apparel frame for insertion into a bodily orifice to correct this problem.

The express purpose of the extension is to prevent misalignment of the apparel when the mechanical support for preventing dislodgement is already being supplied by the body-hugging shape-retaining frame that bears on certain portions of the body. This limited purpose determines the required geometry of the extension. For avoiding misalignment of a garment that is otherwise held onto the body, a cylindrical insert is sufficient. For avoiding dislodgement of the garment

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even in the absence of any other means for holding that portion of the garment against the body a very different geometry is essential. In the latter instance an extension which is sufficiently bulbous to bear against the interior of the bodily cavity into which the orifice opens while the frame bears against the exterior is vital to keeping the garment in contact with the body.

Applicant respectfully submits that this is not at all the case that Jansen discusses. Even with the bulbous portion at the end of the extension shown in Jansen's Figures 1 and 2, absent the rigidity and the clamping nature of the surrounding frame, there is nothing that would prevent substantial movement of the extension along its axis. Thus, while that sort of extension does serve Jansen's limited purpose (of preventing misalignment), it does not prevent dislodgement of the garment. In contradistinction, applicant's Figures 1-4 show an extension that has a large interior bulb attached to a small external frame with said frame being clearly incapable of holding the garment in abutment to the body without the pressure from the insert on the interior of the bodily cavity. Applicant's insert serves a very different purpose from that taught by Jansen and the difference between misalignment and dislodgement is significant.

Thus, the Jansen reference fails to even suggest that apparel which has an insert for the purpose and with the shape required and claimed by applicant. Applicant further submits that the Burger reference also fails even to suggest a hygienic covering for apparel with an inserted extension for the purpose and of the shape disclosed and claimed by applicant.

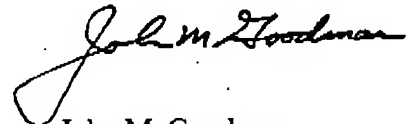
Original claim 12 was rejected as being unpatentable over Jansen. In the preliminary international examination and search, dated 8/11/2004, and performed by examiner Layck, the opinion was given that the original claim 24 would be allowable. Therefore, applicant has

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restated original claim 12 as new claim 34 and original claim 24 as new claim 35 and submits that in view of the above argument these claims should be allowable and urges that the necessary action be taken.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims as amended herein, and passage of the application to issue.



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